GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:168
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2011
IMMIGRATION FACILITIES
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the state of the immigration services at the major International Airports and the Foreigners` Registration Offices in the major cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain international airports in the country including Cochin are facing shortage of manpower;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken in this regard; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to improve immigration services in view of expansion of international airports and increased inflow of air passengers from abroad?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 FOR 08.03.2011

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. There are 77 ICPs (Immigration Check Posts), 7 FRROs (Foreigners Regional Registration Offices), and FROs (Foreigners Registration Offices) in all the District Headquarters. The review and upgradation of Immigration services is a continuous process. A Mission Mode Project (MMP) has been approved by the Govt. of India to develop a secure and Integrated service delivery framework that facilitates legitimate travellers while strengthening security.

(c) to (e): There is shortage of manpower in some international airports. As far as Cochin Airport is concerned, the sanction was granted in March, 2009 for creation of 352 posts to address this problem. The manpower at the ICPs is reviewed periodically by the concerned authorities. As and when proposals for augmentation of manpower are received by the Government of India, the same are processed and approvals are granted as per the established norms. 1800 posts were created in 2008 for augmenting manpower for the ICPs under the management of Bureau of Immigration. Ministry of Home Affairs is considering a proposal for creation of an additional 1812 posts for strengthening the manpower at 13 Immigration Check Posts (including major international airports covering Kozhikode, Goa, Trivendrum, Lucknow and Ahmedabad).

Modernization and up-gradation of Immigration services in the country is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The MMP is titled "Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT)". This project will develop a secure and integrated service delivery framework to enhance security and facilitation in the visa issuance process, strengthen the immigration function besides fortifying the Foreigners Registration Process for effective tracking of foreigners.

The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1011 crore. It is being implemented in a planned and phased manner and is spread over a period of 4Â½ years, i.e. w.e.f. April, 2010 to September, 2014. With the implementation of this project, all the 169 Indian Missions across the globe, 77 Immigration Check Posts (ICPs), and the Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs)/Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs) in the country would be linked with the Central Foreigners Bureau (CFB).